

Marathon Buzz Probe Leaves Lomita Group Happy



AIRPORT PATTERN EXPLAINED . . . Airport Manager Ed Dietrich (right) explains field setup at Torrance Municipal Airport for California Aeronautical Commission members (left to right) Forest Florini, John Felton Turner, Norman Larson (behind Turner) and Earl Prudden. Also pictured are Max Black and Robert M. Byrne, members of the commission's staff.

Air Commission Ends Buzz Probe

By REID BUNDY

Protests of Lomita residents that aircraft using Torrance Municipal Airport were violating safe flying practices by flying too low over Lomita homes were presented in a five-hour, non-stop meeting of the California Aeronautical Commission here Monday.

While holding its regular monthly meeting in Torrance, members of the Commission heard Lomita residents complain that aircraft approaching the field were flying from 30 to 50 feet over house-tops, causing damage to poultry raised in the area, and unsettling the nerves of those living in the field's approach pattern.

Sitting as members of the commission were John Felton Turner, Oakland attorney and chairman of the commission; Norman Larson, Burbank aircraft sales official, vice-chairman; Forest Florini, Turlock rancher and secretary of the group; and Earl Prudden, vice-

president of Ryan Aeronautics of San Diego.

Also present were B. M. Doolin, director of Aeronautics for California; Max Black, commission staff member; and Robert M. Byrne, staff member.

Speaking for the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Assoc., Inc. was Mrs. Victoria Phillips, of 2373 Lomita Blvd., who outlined a 12-point plan of attack which was followed by the group.

Program Outlined

1. She thanked the Commission for coming to Torrance and allowing her to present her case.

2. She emphasized that she does not want to close down the airport.

3. Asked that the flight pattern be moved west.

4. Asked that the landing strip be moved west.

5. Asked the Commission to visit the field.

6. Stated that low flying devalued property of the area.

7. Quoted Doolin, state director of Aeronautics as saying there were no violations in the area inasmuch as no minimum heights had been prescribed for landing patterns.

8. Stated her group had not come armed with petitions.

9. Stated that signers of a petition scheduled to be presented to the commission had signed against closing the airport, not against the practice of low flying.

10. Challenged purported statements that the group she represented was a minority group.

11. Asked for a compulsory liability and property damage insurance.

12. Emphasized that the trouble field group had experienced was with private planes, not military.

City Manager Heard
Previously Torrance City Manager George Stevens had explained to the Commission the arrangement for operation of the airport. He drew a short history of the field, saying it was built by the government during World War II, and that Torrance acquired it in 1945 with a reapture clause in the agreement which meant the city had to maintain the field as an airport.

Stevens told the group that Collins and Dietrich, represented at the hearing by Airport Manager Ed Dietrich, had been the successful bidders to operate the field for the city. He said the city maintained policy-forming control of the operation.

"We're firm in our insistence that good flying practices be maintained," Stevens said.

Also speaking to the Commission was Byrne, who had made several studies of conditions at the field for the State.

120 Planes Here
Byrne reported that 120 planes are now based at the field and that a heavy traffic problem naturally exists.

It was his finding, he reported, that the pattern over Lomita was high enough to keep flying safe.

He also reported that military aircraft could use the field at any time without city approval.

In a four-hour period last Friday (April 17) I observed 87 landings at the field," Byrne said.

In response to a question from Prudden, Mrs. Phillips said she and her neighbors had reported violations to the Sheriff's office, the C.A.A. local police, the Attorney General, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, and Governor Earl Warren. She claimed that in most cases, "nothing was done about it."

"There is a certain fraternalism among aviators, and the

(Herald Photo)

... Airport Manager Ed Dietrich (right) explains field setup at Torrance Municipal Airport for California Aeronautical Commission members (left to right) Forest Florini, John Felton Turner, Norman Larson (behind Turner) and Earl Prudden. Also pictured are Max Black and Robert M. Byrne, members of the commission's staff.



(Herald Photo)

FILES PROTEST . . . Leading the protests over purported low-flying aircraft at Torrance Municipal Airport was Mrs. Victoria Phillips, of 2373 Lomita Blvd.

Second of 2 GP Workers Involved In Accident Dies

Burton M. Holman, one of two General Petroleum Refinery workers involved in an electrical accident at the plant on Apr. 9, died Monday evening in the Good Samaritan Hospital from injuries received in the accident.

The other worker, Charles J. Cunningham, died the day after the accident from shock and burns. The two men were repairing a large tank when a piece of pipe they had disconnected fell against a 16,500 volt high tension line, giving them severe electrical shocks and setting their clothing on fire.

Holman, a craft helper at the plant, who lived at 15830 S. Western Ave., was transferred to the Good Samaritan from the San Pedro Community Hospital, where he was originally taken.

He is survived by his widow, Helen Louise Holman, two children, Sharon Louise, 7, and Richard Burton, 5, three brothers, J. Lowell, Hawthorne, Leonard, from Washington, and Lyle, of Gardena, two sisters, Lona Jean, and Mrs. Sylvia Mullahy of Merced, and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Myron E. Holman, of Gardena.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Latter Day Saints church here, and Bishop Ted Wheat will conduct the services. Interment will follow at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Holman, a native of Santiquin, Utah, was a veteran of World War II, a member of the U. S. Navy, and a member in a capture of the islands of Attu and Kiska. He had been employed by General Petroleum since September, 1950.

Lions, Clowns Tough to Buck

Request of the Torrance Optimist Club that school officials consider releasing students early enough next Wednesday to allow them to attend the matinee of the Clyde Beatty Circus here received fast approval from the board of education Tuesday night after Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull offered a one-sentence comment on the request.

"It's been my experience that it is futile to buck a circus," Dr. Hull said. Board approval was unanimous.

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Plumber Says He Got \$20 For Playing Cupid

How a Torrance plumber, R. D. Pryor, played the role of John Aiden in proposing marriage to 72-year-old Walter "Barfoot" Shumaker for Mrs. Edith Mae Foster was described in a Los Angeles Superior Court on Monday.

Pryor told Judge William J. Palmer that Mrs. Foster paid him \$20 and gasoline money to drive the retired watchmaker and his 72-year-old bride to Tijuana after he had been asked to approach Shumaker to ascertain if he would marry Mrs. Foster.

"It's o.k. by me," Pryor reported Shumaker as saying. Shumaker would acquire his nickname "Barfoot" because each spring he would kick his shoes and leave them off until the autumn rains began to

fall, is suing his wife in an attempt to recover \$40,000 in cash and property of which he claims his wife bilked him.

That the elderly Shumaker was young in spirit was claimed by Mrs. Margaret Parker of Whittier, a member of the Mexico wedding party. She told the court that Shumaker made love to Mrs. Foster all the way to Tijuana and all the way back to Redondo Beach. Shumaker through his attorney Robert Heggen of Los Angeles claims he remembers nothing of any Mexico trips or marriage.

The complaint states that Shumaker suffers from senile dementia, alcoholism and loss of memory.

Pryor told the court that Shumaker apparently had been drinking enroute to Tijuana and

"seemed doped" when they arrived for the ceremony.

Mrs. Foster claims that her husband gave her the money. A character witness for the plaintiff testified that for the 70 years Shumaker remained a bachelor he was quite frugal and that he "hung onto a nickel until the buffalo choked."

Missing, according to Attorney Heggen are several savings accounts totaling \$23,000 which the elderly plaintiff had opened in various savings institutions in Long Beach and Los Angeles. Earlier evidence presented indicated Mrs. Foster had obtained power of attorney from Shumaker then transferred the accounts to her name in the Redondo Beach Bank of America. One account with but \$1 on deposit is now open, according to Attorney Heggen.

Heggen presented a number of checks for \$25 and \$50 bearing the endorsement of the Golden Nugget, a Las Vegas gambling hall, and "Kid Mexico's" Bingo Palace in Signal Hill. Mrs. Foster admitted in court to making several trips to Las Vegas to "do what everybody else does in Las Vegas."

Taking the stand on Monday was local attorney C. T. Rippey who testified he purchased two pieces of property from a man named Lamb and constructed a home on one of the lots for his son C. T. Rippey Jr. Shumaker is claiming a half interest in the house which he avers is constructed on lots still belonging to him.

The 72-year-old bride groom claims his wife took over his home at 1605 Elm Ave. and later

denied him readmittance. Two lots adjacent to the property are the pair he claims his wife sold without his consent or knowledge while he was confined to a sanitarium.

Earlier this week Dr. John Tiffin, Torrance physician, testified he visited Shumaker while he was confined to a Santa Monica sanitarium to examine the patient. He stated he found the man to be competent. He stated however that he did not know who sent him to examine the man nor who paid him for his services.

The trial was expected to conclude late yesterday or early this morning. The case, a non-jury trial, is being heard in Department 29, Superior Court in Los Angeles.

Search Continues For Body Of Pilot Killed in Crash

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Probe for Plane in 50 Feet of S.F. Bay Mud

Salvage crews using Sonar gear continued late yesterday to probe the murky bottom of San Francisco Bay in an attempt to recover the body of a Torrance airline pilot and father of two small children who was among eight persons perishing in a Western Air Lines crash Monday night.

Still believed to be pinned in the wreckage of a huge, four-engine DC6B is the body of 35-year-old Capt. Robert Elliott Clark, of 4830 Reese Road, Seaside Beach.

Surviving is his pretty wife, Mary, an ex-airline hostess whom he met while flying for Western Air Lines out of Salt Lake City, and two children, Susan Gayle, 2½, and Betsy Ann, 11 months old.

The family only recently moved here from Utah.

Western Air Lines officials yesterday noon said that the Civil Aeronautics Board had taken over the direction of salvage operations at the site of the crash. Hampering the efforts was a combination of shallow water and soft silt-like mud nearly 50 feet thick into which the plane was believed whirled.

The spokesman said that reports of "truck loads of wreckage recovered" were exaggerated. Actually the main portion of the huge aircraft is still to be recovered including the pilot's compartment. Only small pieces of debris, that which will float, has been recovered.

Meanwhile, funeral services for the local plane captain and three others whose bodies have not been recovered are pending. Captain Clark had been flying for Western Air Lines for 13 years. During the war he flew large aircraft for the Military Transport Service.

Airline officials said there still was no indication as to what caused the plane to plunge 700 feet into the bay as it prepared to make a landing at the Oakland Airport. The meager bits of debris recovered as of Wednesday noon gave no clue as to the cause of the tragedy, they said.

Torrance has its own observer at the scene of the POW exchanges in Korea, news dispatches from the war torn country disclosed yesterday.

Heading a five-man team of interpreters handling the Chinese prisoners at the Red reception center in the prisoner exchange zone is 28-year-old Lt. James Yarbrough, of 2214 Cabrillo Ave. He is a brother-in-law of Pat Hillier of the Herald's Classified Advertising Department.

Lt. Yarbrough yesterday accused the Chinese of coaching their sick and wounded to put on a show of joy and emotion upon their return to the Communists.

Gloomy At First
He related to newsmen that the Chinese prisoners were gloomy and showed no signs of emotion during the entire transfer procedure on the first day.

On the second day, he was quoted, the prisoners shouted "Down with American imperialism, thank you, Mao Tse-tung." He said they sang and yelled while they were being carried away in ambulances.

The Torrance officer said he



SEARCH CONTINUES . . . Still sought late yesterday was the body of Capt. Robert Clark, Western Air Lines pilot, who died along with eight others in a Monday night airliner crash in the San Francisco Bay. He is survived by his wife, pictured here with the late flyer. They met while she was serving as an airline hostess for Western Air Lines.

Local Officer Key Figure In Korea POW Exchange

believed the Communist had placed cheer leaders in each bus to lead the returned sick and wounded in singing Communist songs. He said the demonstrations were not spontaneous.

Yarbrough, who is married to the former Dorothy Ceill,

He first learned to speak Chinese during World War II and while attending the University of Southern California after his release from service. After his recall to active duty in February, 1951, he attended the Army Language School at the Presidio in San Francisco.

The Yarbroughs have two sons, James Jr. who is six and Robin, who is one.

Final Election Returns Gives Gibson 17,331

It's official, now. Councilman John S. Gibson Jr. has been re-elected to his post on the Los Angeles City Council.

Final official election returns for the April 7 primary election showed that Gibson received 17,331 votes. Total combined votes for other candidates in the race was 7866.

Gibson's election was for a four-year term, one of the first Councilmen to receive the longest term.

Capture Third Suspect

Detective Captain Ernie Ashton was nominated yesterday by Police Chief John Stroth to go to Sedro Woolley, Wash., to extradite Don Madlung, suspect in the \$30,000 National Supply Co. robbery here, who was apprehended Tuesday by FBI agents near the Canadian border, which he apparently planned to cross.

At present, Stroth is awaiting word from the District Attorney, who will decide whether Ashton or one of his own men will make the trip to pick up Madlung. The final decision should be forthcoming within two or three days, the Police Chief said.

When arrested, Madlung was said to have \$4491 on his person.

In the meanwhile, Joe Alden, confessed embezzler of \$7628 in ENESCO funds and victim in the \$30,000 grab, was scheduled to be taken to Department 40, Superior Court of Los Angeles at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, where he will be sentenced.

William McNally, 25, another suspect in the \$30,000 robbery, surrendered to police Apr. 11, and a third suspect, Paul Frank, 32, is still being sought by police in connection with the robbery.

Madlung, 24, whose local address is 1646 Cabrillo Ave., had served a sentence in a Utah prison for wife desertion, and Franks, 1627 W. 203rd St., is a parolee from a Pennsylvania penitentiary, where he served a term for larceny.

He first learned to speak Chinese during World War II and while attending the University of Southern California after his release from service. After his recall to active duty in February, 1951, he attended the Army Language School at the Presidio in San Francisco.

The Yarbroughs have two sons, James Jr. who is six and Robin, who is one.

Teacher Needs Still Critical, Trustees Told

Shortages of teachers for elementary grade positions continue to be critical, particularly at the kindergarten and primary grade levels, Administrative Assistant Al Posner reported this week.

Outlook for Torrance schools next fall may depend largely on the number of out-of-state teachers coming to California this summer, Posner said in a report to the Board of Education Tuesday.

To date, 43 candidates have been found who will be recommended to the Board for employment this fall, Posner said. The candidates were selected after interviews conducted by Posner at Santa Barbara, University of Southern California,

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KEITH W. JONES

... Paid Final Tribute

Final Tribute Paid Here to Keith W. Jones

Funeral services for Keith W. Jones, 58, for a number of years a Torrance businessman, were held yesterday afternoon at Stone and Myers Mortuary Chapel, Rev. Arthur E. Bello officiated.

Mr. Jones, who had lived in Palmdale for the past two years, died here Saturday after an illness of several weeks.

A brother of Charles Ver Jones, owner of Torrance Hardware, the deceased had been an active member of Kiwanis Club for a number of years and was president of the Palmdale Kiwanis-at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Long Beach Masonic Lodge's Searchlight Chapter.

Before his death, Mr. Jones was associated with a retail lumber business in Lancaster.

Survivors Named
He leaves his widow, Rose; a daughter, Rose E. McIlvaine, of Torrance; and a son, Robert W. Jones II, of Long Beach. Also surviving are his father, Robert W. Jones, of Long Beach; three brothers, Charles V. Jones of Torrance, Edward D. Jones, of San Francisco; and Clyde F. Jones of Long Beach; and two sisters, Rose Gahan of Taft, and May Hausenstein, of Long Beach.

Graveside services were conducted by the Long Beach Masonic Lodge at Green Hills Cemetery before interment.

Serving as active pallbearers were members of the Torrance and Palmdale Kiwanis Clubs, Bob Haggard, Dean Sears, Dr. Howard A. Wood, Chan Chandler, Smith Swords, and Gil Morris.

Honorary pallbearers included Sam Levy, Delph Study, Tom Watson, Charles Dodd, Harry Davis, Elmer Myers, Ernest Carpenter, Angus McVicar, Sam B. Anderson, and Allan W. Thurston.